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Internatio plication No PCT/IB 03/05445

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 7 G11B7/0037 G11B7/0045 G11B7/24 G11B7/007 G11B7/013 G11B7/26 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC B. FIELDS SEARCHED Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC 7 G11B Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the International search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) EPO-Internal, PAJ C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Relevant to claim No. 1-4,7-9EP 0 197 256 A (GERBER ARTHUR M) 15 October 1986 (1986-10-15) 12,13 Υ page 9, line 21 -page 11, line 2 page 22, line 11 -page 23, line 20 page 29, line 29 -page 30, line 1; figures US 5 031 168 A (MOORE GEORGE S) Υ 9 July 1991 (1991-07-09) column 13, line 43 -column 14, line 2; figure 4 X US 5 896 366 A (OGAWA MASATSUGU) 1 20 April 1999 (1999-04-20) column 4, line 31 - line 48; figures 1A,1B Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Patent family members are listed in annex. X Special categories of cited documents: "T" later document published after the International filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance "E" earlier document but published on or after the International "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) 'Y' document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such docu-ments, such combination being obvious to a person skilled O' document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or in the art. document published prior to the International filing date but later than the priority date claimed *&* document member of the same patent family Date of the actual completion of the international search Date of malling of the international search report 2 March 2004 12/03/2004 Name and mailing address of the ISA Authorized officer European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016 Chaumeron, B

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